

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 /090 W
-----124139 280907Z /21

O 280800Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9122

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3014

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MILI UNSC WA SF ZA

SUBJ: FURTHER ON SAG INCURSION INTO ZAMBIA

REF: (A) PRETORIA 5009, (B) LUSAKA 3010, (C) LUSAKA 3009,
(D) LUSAKA 3006

1. I ASKED MARK CHONA AT 0845 AUGUST 26 FOR AN UPDATE ON
PRESENCE OF SAG TROOPS IN ZAMBIA (HE HAD BEEN UNREACHABLE
SUNDAY). CHONA SAID THAT SITUATION ON SATURDAY HAD BEEN
EVEN WORSE THAN HE HAD DESCRIBED TO ME AND ALLINSON. FURTHER,
ACTION ON THE GROUND CONTINUED ALL DAY SUNDAY. THERE HAVE
BEEN TWO BATTLES INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES, ONE AT
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SINJEMBELE, THE OTHER AT IMUSHO, BOTH NORTHWEST OF SESHEKE.
(COMMENT: BOTH LOCATIONS ARE IDENTIFIED WITH SWAPO CONCEN-
TRATIONS. ACCORDING TO CHONA, SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES ARE NOW
OPERATING IN SMALL GROUPS. UNTIL YESTERDAY, SOUTH AFRICANS
HAD ATTEMPTED TO AVOID CONTACT WITH ZAMBIAN MILITARY. HOWEVER,
AT SINJEMBELE THEY "PROVOKED A BATTLE" WITH ZAMBIAN MILITARY
UNITS.)

2. CHONA SAID THE ZAMBIANS WERE NOT SURE THAT CONTINUING MILITARY ACTION WAS IN CONNECTION WITH A SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL OR IMPLIED A CONTINUING SOUTH AFRICAN OFFENSIVE. HE SAID THAT IF ACTIONS CONTINUED DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT TO REINFORCE ITS TROOPS IN THE SESHEKE AREA. HE AND THE PRESIDENT ARE BEING ADVISED BY THE MILITARY THAT ZAMBIA SHOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTINUE TO PERMIT SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION WITHOUT TAKING COUNTERMEASURES. HE SAID DECISION TO REINFORCE WOULD BE TAKEN WITH GREATEST RELUCTANCE SINCE THIS COULD LEAD INEVITABLY TO AN ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT NOW TAKING PLACE. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT "WE CAN'T HOLD OUR MILITARY BACK MUCH LONGER."

3. CHONA MENTIONED THE CAPTURE BY SOUTH AFRICA OF TWO ZAMBIAN BUSES AND REQUESTED THAT I SEEK INFORMATION ON WELFARE OF PASSENGERS.

4. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH CHONA I REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR EDMONDSON'S MEETING WITH FOURIE (REFTEL A) AND INFORMED HIM THAT SAG WAS ADAMANT IN SAYING THAT ITS TROOPS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY WORD THAT I COULD GIVE CHONA ON THE STATUS OF THE BUSES AND PASSENGERS WOULD HELP TO QUIET THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFAIR.

6. COMMENT: THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES TO EXPLAIN THE CONFLICT IN INFORMATION ON WHAT IS TRANSPIRING MILITARILY WITHIN ZAMBIA: EITHER THE SAG IS UNINFORMED, OR THE SAG IS MAKING A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO MISLEAD. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA IS UNINFORMED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON ITS OWN SOIL. WE HAVE SEEN SOME INDICATION THAT THE INCIDENTS DESCRIBED BY CHONA MAY IN FACT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON FRIDAY.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA03014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-1083
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780818/aaaaaosx.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 681bf25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 5009, 78 LUSAKA 3010, 78 LUSAKA 3009, 78 LUSAKA 3006
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1604094
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER ON SAG INCURSION INTO ZAMBIA
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, WA, SF, ZA, UNSC
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/681bf25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014